



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District of Arizona*

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SUN DRYWALL AND STUCCO, COMPANY PRESIDENT, AND SEVEN OTHERS INDICTED FOR HARBORING AND KNOWINGLY HIRING ILLEGAL ALIENS

TUCSON – A federal grand jury in Tucson returned a two count indictment on March 27 against Sun Drywall and Stucco, Inc., Ivan T. Hardt, 44, Carol Hill, 43, Jose A. Gutierrez Tapia, 35, Joaquin J. Neave, 42, Santiago Trejo-Ramirez, 35, Omar Reyes, 25, and Edward Ramirez-Durgin, 39, all of Sierra Vista, and Efrain Silvain-Avechuco, 36, of Cananea, Sonora, Mexico for a violation of Harboring Illegal Aliens for Profit and Knowingly Hiring Illegal Aliens.

Count one of the indictment alleges that from a date unknown until on or about March 9, 2007, defendant Sun Drywall and Stucco, Inc., and defendants Hardt, Hill, Tapia, Silvain-Avechuco, Neave, and Trejo-Ramirez, Reyes, and Ramirez-Durgin harbored or shielded from detection at least 27 illegal aliens who worked for Sun Drywall and Stucco, Inc. Count two of the indictment alleges that all of the named defendants knowingly hired, or aided and abetted in the hiring of at least 27 illegal aliens during a 12-month period. All defendants, except for Silvain-Avechuco, are out of custody and will likely be summoned to appear at their arraignment.

A conviction for Harboring Illegal Aliens carries a maximum penalty of 5 years, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for Knowingly Hiring Illegal Aliens carries a maximum penalty of 5 years, a \$250,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, the District Court Judge Raner C. Collins will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Customs and Border Protection Border Patrol, the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division, and the Arizona Fraudulent Identity Task Force (AFIT). The Cochise County Sheriff's Office and the Sierra Vista Police Department assisted federal agents in the March 9 takedown. The prosecution is being handled by Danny N. Roetzel and Munish Sharda, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-07-548-TUC-RCC (JCG)
RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-093(Hardt, et al Sun Drywall)

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